GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3277
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
IRRIGATION POTENTIAL
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gap between irrigation potential created and utilized has not been bridged despite the constitution of Command Area Development Programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) & (b) The gap between irrigation potential created and utilized has been considerably bridged through the implementation of the Command Area Development (CAD) Programme in projects covered under the programme.However, the gap has not been completely bridged, inter alia, on account of the following:

i) Non inclusion of all irrigation projects in the Command Area Development programme.

ii) Changes in cropping pattern, than that initially envisaged, and

iii) Poor maintenance of irrigation systems and siltation of canals/ reservoirs.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between potential created and utilized include encouragement and assistance for Participatory Irrigation Management involving the beneficiaries to improve the efficiency of the system and ensure better maintenance of the existing assets. Further, the State Governments are motivated to allocate more resources for improving water use efficiency and irrigation practices for utilization of the created potential. Trainings are also imparted to the farmers and field functionaries for efficient on farm water management and adoption of suitable cropping pattern.